

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IOE-00 OIC-02 PM-04 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06

AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 L-03 H-02 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 /131 W

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P 061509Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 971

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5295

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PORG, ELAB

SUBJ: ILO MARITIME CONFERENCE CHAIRMANSHIP

REF: (A) GENEVA 3271, (B) STATE 104426, (C) TOKYO 9862,
(D) STATE 163097

1. JAPANESE POLCOUNSE SEO INFORMED US JULY 2 THAT
TOKYO HAS DECIDED TO PUT FORWARD NOW JAPANESE PERMREP
TSURUMI TO CHAIR ILO MARITIME CONFERENCE OCTOBER 13-29.
SEO SAID JAPAN WANTED US TO BE FIRST TO HEAR OF THIS
DECISION (HE WAS UNAWARE WE HAD ALREADY BEEN INFORMED
IN TOKYO), BUT THEN INTENDED TO INFORM NORWAY OF
DECISION AND ASK FOR NORWEGIAN SUPPORT (PROBABLY
JULY 5-6) BEFORE CIRCULATING NOTES TO ILO MEMBER
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MISSIONS IN GENEVA (PROBABLY JULY 8-9). HE RECALLED

ENCOURAGEMENT JAPANESE HAD RECEIVED AT TIME OF GOVERNING BODY SESSION IN FEBRUARY AND DURING VISIT OF SILBERMAN TO TOKYO, AND SAID GOJ ADVANCING TSURUMI CANDIDACY SOMEWHAT EARLIER THAN IT OTHERWISE MIGHT IN HOPES OF STAVING OFF COMPETITION. HE REQUESTED FIRM US SUPPORT OF TSURUMI CANDIDACY.

2. SEO RAN THROUGH JUSTIFICATIONS TO SUPPORT JAPANESE CANDIDACY: JAPAN HAS NOT CHAIRED SUCH ILO MEETING IN TWENTY YEARS; NORWAY CHAIRED PREPARATORY MEETING FOR MARITIME CONFERENCE, AND ILO PRECEDENT APPEARS TO BE THAT SAME CHAIRMAN DOES NOT CHAIR FULL CONFERENCE; WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT ILO CONFERENCE CHAIRMEN ARE NOT SELECTED UNDER SYSTEM OF REGIONAL ROTATION, JAPAN HAS CONSULTED WITH ASIANS (INCLUDING INDIA WHICH HE SAID HAD HAD INCIPIENT ASPIRATIONS) AND HAS ASIAN SUPPORT; CHAIRMANSHIP OF ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ILO GOVERNING BODY HAD JUST GONE TO EUROPEANS AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE TO AFRICAN, AND THUS ASIANS SO FAR UNREPRESENTED IN THIS DISTRIBUTION; AMBASSADOR TSURUMI IS COMPETENT CHAIRMAN WHO WILL BE UP TO TASK OF COPING WITH ANY G-77 BY-PLAYS WHICH MAY OCCUR.

3. SEO ADVANCED AS POSSIBLY MOST TELLING ARGUMENT THAT JAPAN PRESUMABLY WAS IN BETTER POSITION THAN NORWAY TO CHECKMATE ANY POLISH INITIATIVE TO CLAIM CHAIR. HE WONDERED IN THIS CONNECTION WHETHERUS HAD RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION OF POLISH INTEREST BEYOND VAGUE FEELER THROUGH SECRETARIAT, AND MISOFF REPLIED THAT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE THAT WAS ALL.

4. AS FOR POSSIBLE NORWEGIAN INTEREST, SEO RECALLED THAT AT IMEC CONSULTATION IN MAY QUESTION HAD BEEN ASKED OF INTEREST AMONG IMEC MEMBERS IN CHAIRING MARITIME CONFERENCE AND HE HAD FELT COMPELLED THEREUPON TO ANNOUNCE THAT JAPAN HAD THIS UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. WHILE HE HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HEARING FROM ANY OTHER IMEC MEMBER SIMILARLY INTERESTED, CONFIDENTIAL

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NE NOTED THAT NORWAY HAD NOT RESPONDED THEN OR FOLLOWED UP THEREAFTER. (HE TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT NORWEGIAN MISSION HAD, IN FACT, BEEN UNRESPONSIVE TO INITIATIVE HE TOOK IN MAY TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION.) ON OTHER HAND, JAPAN HAD REPORT THAT NORWAY, LIKE POLAND, HAD MADE SOUNDINGS IN ILO SECRETARIAT ABOUT PROSPECTS OF OBTAINING CHAIRMANSHIP.

5. MISOFF THANKED SEO FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LEARNING OF NORWEGIAN REACTION (WHICH SEO PROMISED TO CONVEY), AND UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY JAPANESE INTENTIONS PROMPTLY TO DEPARTMENT TOGETHER WITH JAPANESE REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF US SUPPORT. MISOFF PROFFERED PERSONAL VIEW THAT, WITHOUT WISHING TO GET CAUGHT BETWEEN ANY COMPETING ASPIRATIONS OF FRIENDS, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE DESIRABLE FROM US POINT OF VIEW THAT AN IMEC MEMBER HAD DECIDED TO TAKE SUCH FIRM INITIATIVE AT THIS STAGE WITH PROSPECT OF PRE-EMPTING POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE ARISE WITH RESPECT TO A POLISH CANDIDACY. MISOFF FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT LESS SAID ABOUT POSSIBLE POLISH CANDIDACY THE BETTER, SO THAT POLISH FEELER MIGHT NOW REMAIN JUST THAT. SEO EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING THAT IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION FOR US NOW WOULD BE TO KNOW NORWEGIAN REACTION.ABRAMS

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